

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

 Saturday, July 16. 1709.

WHen a little before the late Union, you were all here running mad upon the *Scots*; one was for declaring War against them, another for interrupting their Trade with *France*; a third for prohibiting their Linen, *tho' we could not well tell how to do without it*; another for prohibiting their Cattle; another the Exportation of their Wool—One, whose Malice did not fail him, whatever his Sences did, was for sending all the *Scots* that were settled in *England*, Bag and Baggage, with their Wives and Children, and all their Goods into *Scotland*—

Wou'd you dare, said a *Scott* Gentleman, that I knew very well—They would bring so much Wealth, so much Industry, so much

Experience in Manufactures, in Husbandry, in the Manner of Living, in the Arts of Life, such a Taste of Liberty, such Customs, and such Methods into *Scotland* with them, —Above all, they would create so much Trade abroad, and Consumption at home, that we would quickly be a Match for you.

And I cannot but say, this was a right Notion enough, whether we respect *England*, as the *Scots* are scatter'd about in it in all Places, and in all Kinds of Trade, or whether you respect *Scotland* in its present Want of Commerce and Improvement.

It is well known, and I need spend no more time about it, that *Scotland* is neither deficient in the Goodness of Soil, Temper of Climate,

Climate, proper Produce or Scituation for Trade, to make it flourish equally with the rest of *Britain*. Your Notions of Barrenness and Starving, are ridiculous; betray your Ignorance, or your Wishes that it were so — He that wants no Money in *Scotland*, wants nothing you can have in *England*; and he that wants Money in *England*, wants every thing that they have in *Scotland* — The only Wants in *Scotland*, are the Genius for Improvement, and Stocks to Encourage it.

In order to improve *Scotland* in Trade, I lay it down as a Fundamental Maxim, Their Lands must be first improv'd. If you will Cure the raging Distemper of Poverty and Sloth, you must begin at the Principles of Improvement; and these are the Produce of the Earth.

If the Lands in *Scotland* are made Rich, they will make the People Rich; the Encrease of Produce must mend the Way of Living of those that produce it — The Encrease of Rent must enrich the Landlord. As Wealth increases, Expences must increase; and this makes Trade — Again, As the Produce increases, it will maintain and employ more Hands: This will raise the Value of Labour; raising the Value of Labour encourages the Poor to work; for 'tis Wages makes Men diligent: The Reward of Industry makes Men industrious — Two things only engender Sloth in the World, Pride and Poverty — Encouragement to Labour, Advance of Wages, and Plenty of Food removes the Last — As to the First, even Pride it self will stoop to Industry, where that Industry meets with Encouragement.

But what Heart has Mankind to Labour, when Misery, Want, and a dejected Poverty is continually before them? — Industry has its Reward with it; *The diligent hand maketh rich*, says *Solomon*; but it must be where there is something to do — For in vain is a Man Diligent that has nothing to Labour — And speaking to *Scotland* Now; this is the Case of your most vigorous, sprightly and industrious Spirits flying from you, and going abroad. The Case is plain; There they must work hard, and apply close, but it answers, their Labour and Di-

ligence is rewarded with Success — And this is the Occasion that the *Scots* are Abroad the most Diligent, and at Home the least so; Abroad the most forward in Business, and at Home the most backward of any People I know in *Europe* — The brisk enterprizing Spirit of the *Scots*, when Abroad, pushes at every thing, and succeeds: At Home they are discouraged and dejected; let them push at what they will, it cannot succeed: No Prospect, no View of any thing considerable before them; no Reward to industrious Contrivance; no plentiful Subsistence in their Labour; and this takes off the Edge of their Spirit, Discourages and Disheartens them — and either they sit down contented with narrow Circumstances, live meanly upon the native Produce of their Estates, or leave their own Country, in order to grow Rich, which they see is not so easie to do at Home — And 'tis observ'd, they are the most Industrious of People when they come Abroad, and are generally Rich, their extraordinary Diligence being ordinarily blest with Success —

This Want of Improvement of Lands, makes Want of Trade; Want of Trade, makes Want of People; Want of People again discourages Improvement, and Mischiefs brood upon themselves, hatch one another, and joyn together to Depopulate *Scotland*, and that Impoverishes her.

And yet we will not hearken to the Felicity of Increasing our People — Nothing has made us Rich, but the Encrease of our People: Nothing has made *Scotland* Poor, but the Decrease of their People — Turn the Tables; Nothing can Impoverish us like the Diminishing our Number of People — Nothing can Enrich *Scotland*, but the Encrease of their People.

I shall hereafter say something to the Manner of Encouraging the People in *Scotland* to stay at Home — which I believe to be no difficult matter: I shall conclude it now with this — The first Step must be Improving their Land.

I know it is often said in *Scotland* — If some of your *English* People, that are bred to Improvement, would come among us, and set to work upon our Lands, to put us in a Way

Way of Improvement, we should soon fall into it — And this is very true — But this flies in the Face of our Popular Clamours here, against bringing People among us — If *Scotland*, which you think is so poor, would embrace more People, and believe their improv'd Lands would support them — what is to be said of Us, who have already increased our Wealth and People at such a rate, merely by Inclosing, Cultivating and Improving our Lands?

There is no question to be made, that *Scotland* will Enclose, Improve, and Increase both her People and her Produce, and by consequence her Trade, when her farther Acquaintance with *England* shall instruct her in Method, and shew her the Advantage. The Great Mystery I am wondering at, and reproaching you all for, is, That *England*, who is grown to what she is purely by the Improving her Lands, should be backward to go on with those Improvements, which would still increase her Wealth, Strength and Commerce too, as much beyond what it is now, as what is now, is really beyond what it was 300 Years ago.

I see two Questions offer themselves here against my Proposal of Improving *Scotland*.

1. How does it appear that Enclosing the Lands in *Scotland* shall be an Improving them?
2. How does it appear, that a bare Improving the Lands shall raise *Scotland* from its present Discouragements and Poverty?

I hope it will not be counted useless to us in *England* to discourse of the Improvement of *Scotland*; since to all *Englishmen*, that have any Pretence to the Possession of their Senses, the Enriching, Encouraging, and Increasing of *Scotland*, ought to be esteem'd as our own. But if this Story should seem less edifying to you, the Defect of which must be your Judgment — you must, however, bear with it now: For since this Paper extends itself to *Scotland* as well as *England*, being Re-printed there, it ought, and shall always have, a Part of it dedicated to their Advantage as well as Satisfaction; and yet I hope few publick Subjects can be here treated of, but may be made useful to both.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have been long treating of the Planting, Settling, Entertaining and Disposing of the poor *Palatine* Refugees, who are come among us — I am sorry there should be any Disatisfaction among our Poor about them — While they are thus held in suspense among us, every Trade, every Manufacture, (I mean the People employ'd in them) look upon the poor Strangers as a Cloud hovering over them, and which they think will every day break upon their Particular, and deluge all their Labour.

From hence we see growing Aversions to them, false Charges laid on them, and we look on them not with Pity and Commiseration, but with Envy and Jealousie, and I fear it should rise up to Hatred and Aversion.

Upon this Consideration, after what I have said already to make our Entertaining them rational, I could not but communicate a Letter I received yesterday about them from an unknown Hand; which, however it may have Objections against it, yet will clear up the Intention and Design of these poor Strangers in coming hither, and may a little prevent the Encrease of our ill Temper to them.

S I R,

Having read several of your late Reviews, wherein you prove, very well, what great Advantage the Settling the poor *Palatines* here will be to this Kingdom, which I humbly conceive is undoubtedly true. But the Humour of the *English* Work-People